



# News Release

USDA Forest Service

Cibola National Forest and Grasslands

2113 Osuna Rd. NE ■ Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001



## For Immediate Release

### ***Sandia and Mountainair Ranger Districts to begin Stage III Fire Restrictions June 10***

**Albuquerque, NM. June 4, 2013.** The Cibola National Forest and Grasslands' Sandia and Mountainair Ranger Districts will begin Stage III fire restrictions effective 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 10, 2013. "We have been closely monitoring conditions on these districts and based on their assessments and the National Weather Service predictions of ongoing drought, I feel it is necessary to move to Stage III fire restrictions to prevent human-caused wildfires and to protect public health and safety," said Acting Forest Supervisor Joe Norrell.

In Stage III fire restrictions, all areas of the districts are closed unless specifically listed as open. However, there are some exemptions for both districts:

1. Persons with a Forest Service permit specifically authorizing the prohibited act or omission.
2. Any federal, state or local officer or member of an organized firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
3. Residents in the area accessing private property via a closed Forest Service road.
4. Persons occupied in a business, trade or occupation in the area as specifically authorized.

**Mountainair Ranger District:** The entire district is closed.

**Sandia Ranger District:** The entire district is **closed**, except for the following areas, trails and roads. **These areas will operate under Stage II fire restrictions.**

#### **Open Areas:**

- Sandia Peak Tram and associated facilities. Visitors are not allowed to access any National Forest lands at the top of the Tram. Visitation will be confined to use of the Tram facilities and observation deck only.
- The Tijeras Pueblo interpretive trail located at the Sandia Ranger Station. Visitors must stay on the official trail.

#### **Open Trails:**

- Those portions of Forest Trail 365, including secondary trails associated with Forest Trail 365, outside of the Sandia Mountain Wilderness, and South of the Tram.

**Open Roads:**

- Forest Road 242
- Forest Road 413

Current fire restrictions for the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands are:

- **Black Kettle and McClellan Creek National Grasslands:** No restrictions.
- **Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands:** Will begin Stage I fire restrictions on June 16.
- **Magdalena Ranger District:** In Stage I fire restrictions for the San Mateo, Datil and Magdalena Mountain units. The Bear and Gallinas units are not in restrictions.
- **Mountainair Ranger District:** In Stage II Fire Restrictions; going into Stage III restrictions on June 10.
- **Mt. Taylor Ranger District:** In Stage I Fire Restrictions; going into Stage II restrictions on June 10. The district's personal woodcutting permit season is delayed.
- **Sandia Ranger District:** In Stage II Fire Restrictions; going into Stage III restrictions on June 10.

The Cibola's fire restrictions can be found at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/cibola/alerts-notice>

For more information, contact:

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**Useful fire websites:**

- Cibola National Forest & Grasslands: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/cibola>
- Fire Restrictions: <http://firerestrictions.us/>
- FireWise: [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)
- Southwest Coordination Center: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/>
- National Interagency Fire Center: [www.nifc.gov](http://www.nifc.gov)
- National Incident Information Center: [www.fs.fed.us/news/fire](http://www.fs.fed.us/news/fire)